

2024 Regional Longleaf Award Recipients Announced

August 1, 2024

For Immediate Release

The Longleaf Alliance Press Contact

Sarah Crate

sarah@longleafalliance.org

Every two years, individuals, private landowners, land managers, wildlife biologists, conservation groups, consultants, university researchers, forestry professionals, and agency and outreach personnel gather for the best and largest longleaf event in the nation: The Biennial Longleaf Conference.

The Regional Longleaf Awards Program, offered in conjunction with the Biennial Longleaf Conference, recognizes individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to longleaf restoration and conservation across the southeastern U.S. Award recipients will be recognized during an Awards Presentation at the 15th Biennial Longleaf Conference held at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort in Miramar Beach, Florida, on Wednesday, October 9, 2024.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS & AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Bill Boyer Natural Resource Professional of the Year Award recognizes a natural resource professional who has made outstanding contributions within the field of longleaf ecosystem conservation – **JON SCOTT**, *National Fish and Wildlife Foundation*

The Palustris Corporate Achievement Award recognizes a corporation with long-standing commitment toward conservation of the longleaf ecosystem – **FOREST INVESTMENT ASSOCIATES**

The Gjerstad/Johnson Landowner of the Year Award recognizes a private landowner for ensuring the future of the longleaf ecosystem on private land – **DOUG & TERESA MOORE**, *South Prong Plantation, Florida*

The Burner Bob® Prescribed Fire Champion Award recognizes an individual or organization for outstanding efforts in championing prescribed fire to ensure the future of the longleaf ecosystem on private land – **BILL RIVERS**, *The Nature Conservancy, Louisiana*

True Longleaf Champion Awards recognize a lifetime of dedication to the conservation and restoration of the South's iconic forest – **BRUCE HAGEDORN**, *Eglin Air Force Base Natural Resources*
MIKE OLIVER, *NRCS State Forester "retired" Texas and Tennessee*

Emerging Leader Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated innovation, initiative, and leadership to develop a project that advances longleaf conservation – **LAUREN PHARR**, *North Carolina State University & Field Inclusive*

CONSERVATION PARTNER AWARDS & AWARD RECIPIENTS

Natural Resources Conservation Service Team Achievement Award recognizes an NRCS team that has gone above-and-beyond the call of duty in delivering longleaf restoration for private landowners – **EAST TEXAS PLANT MATERIALS CENTER**

Department of Defense Team Achievement Award recognizes a DoD team that has excelled in managing and restoring the longleaf ecosystem on Military Installations – **FORT STEWART/HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION, Georgia**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Team Achievement Award recognizes a USFWS team for their exemplary management and restoration of the longleaf ecosystem for wildlife. – **GEORGIA PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE**

USDA Forest Service Team Achievement Award recognizes a USDA FS team that has significantly improved and expanded the management and restoration of the Longleaf ecosystem on and around the National Forest System – **FRANCIS MARION NATIONAL FOREST and SANTEE EXPERIMENTAL FOREST, South Carolina**

Non-Profit Conservation Partner Award recognizes a non-profit organization that has significantly improved, protected, and conserved the longleaf ecosystem – **TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND, Florida**

The Longleaf Alliance extends our sincere gratitude to these teams and individuals for their positive efforts to conserve the longleaf forest. “The Regional Longleaf Awards allow us to shine a light on the individuals and organizations that are making meaningful contributions to the overall longleaf restoration effort. We are honored to recognize such a well-deserving group of award recipients this year and show our appreciation for their dedication to this ecosystem that we all love,” said Carol Denhof, President of The Longleaf Alliance.

ABOUT THE LONGLEAF ALLIANCE

The Longleaf Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit conservation organization. First organized in 1995, The Longleaf Alliance operates throughout the southeastern United States from Virginia to Texas helping landowners restore their land to functioning longleaf forests while generating income from the very same forest that provides homes for some of the South’s most threatened plant and animal species.